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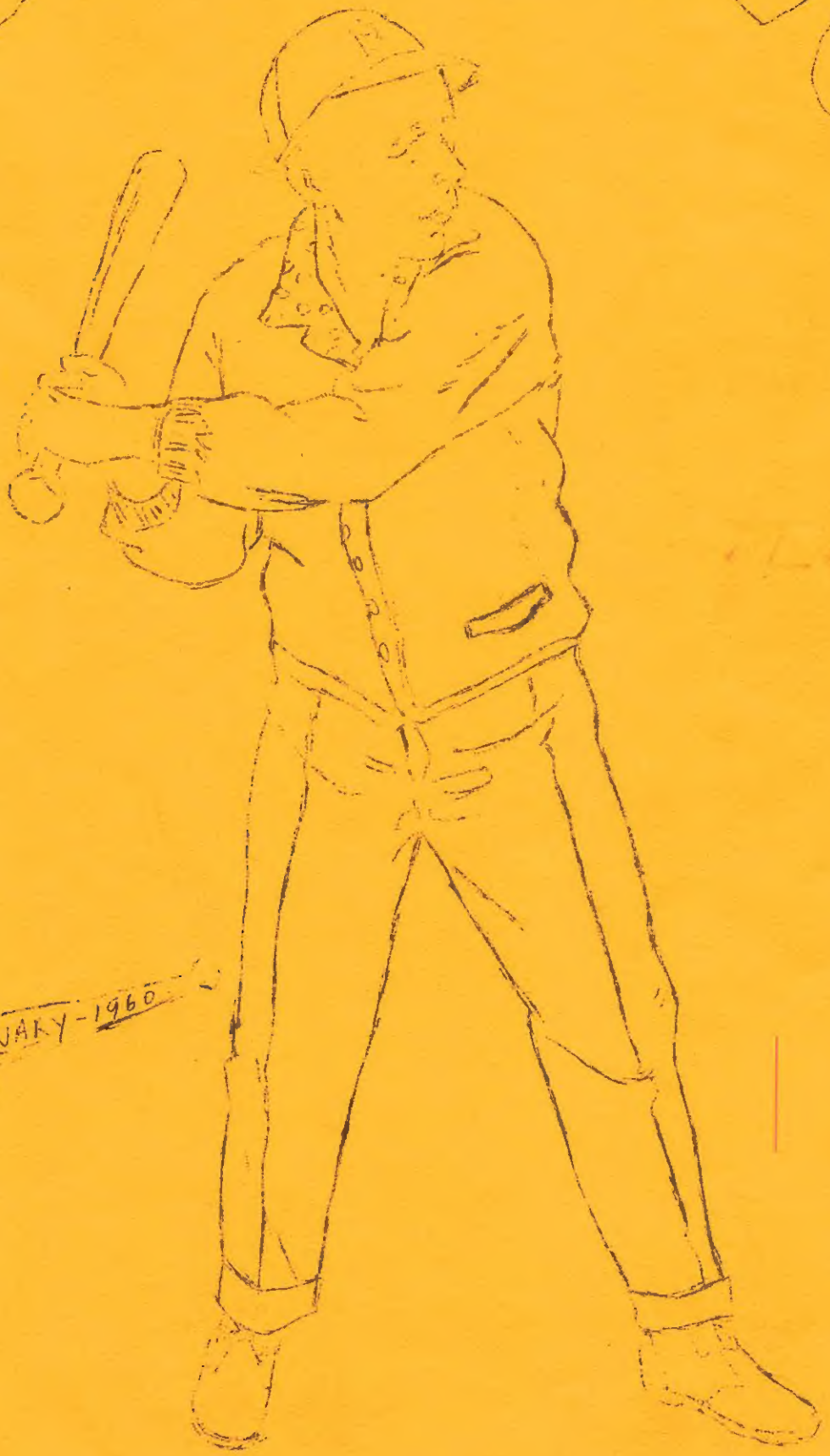

FEBRUARY - 1960

BINGANG BINGANG BINGANG

Vol. XVI No. 1 February, 1960

THE CLUB CROSBY PRESENTATION

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An X on the address label means your membership expires with this issue of "Bingang".

We are registered with:

Hep Cats Review
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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Well, here we are again with a new journal, thank you once again for your nice letters.

Well, very many nice things have happened since the last journal. Of course, first, and most important of all, the birth of Mary Frances on September 14th to Kathryn and Bing. I have sent in the club's name, the following telegram:

September 15, 1959

Mr. & Mrs. Bing Crosby
Queen of Angeles Hosptial
Los Angeles, California

Greetings to Mary Frances on her safe arrival and congratulations to her proud parents.

Rena Albanesi and the Club
Crosby Members

I received a thank you note as follows:

Your kind words on the arrival of
Mary Frances are greatly appreciated
by Bing, Tex and me.
We are all delighted with her, and
are particularly grateful that you
share our joy.
Kathryn Crosby

This time we once again have a letter from Larry, as you can see by it, Bing has been away from Hollywood, and wasn't able to give us a letter this trip, but Larry tells us what's what. The snaps are only three this time. The one of Bing and Tex was sent to me by Larry, the other two I had made up.

I am very sorry to say that the money collected for the Christmas donation was very little, and I couldn't send it to St. Labre's. I would like to do so for Bing's birthday, so the members who wish to leave it in, please let me know, and the others who wish to add to it, please have it to me by April 15th. This I think will be the last time we will take any collections, as we haven't been collecting enough to send.

Bing's television show, and his guest appearance with Frank Sinatra are the next things, both shows received fine reviews. I have a few writeups of each. Glad to hear Bing and Perry Como, will be exchanging appearances along with three of the four boys.

The next movie Bing will be making, Daddy-O, along with Fabian, Carol Lynley and Barrie Chase, then later in the year, the "Jimmy Durante Story", along with Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. There is still talk of another Road picture with Bob Hope.

I guess the last best thing, and maybe one of the most important, is the reunion of Bing and the boys. I do hope and pray all will go well. I never liked to put these personal things in the journal, but it was a happy occasion, I had to mention it.

Now, comes my most important news as far as I myself am concerned. By the time you receive this journal, I will be in California. After many years of dreaming, planning and almost making it twice last year it has finally happened. (I have left on the 2nd. of January, and hope to return by March 14th.) So, any members who have to send in renewal dues, please try to have it to me by, March 14th, as I will not be able to send reminders. I would also like to have any articles and regular columns in by then. The June issue may be a little late in getting to you, but I will try very hard to have it out on time.

I am very happy to say that I am planning to go to Bing's Pebble

Beach Golf Tournament, along with Priscilla Koernig, and some of her friends. This I think will be one of the most exciting parts of the trip, I guess it's because I have hopes of maybe seeing Bing there. I may also visit the Crosby Library, at Gonzaga University. I will try to put together for the June issue of, "Bingang", an article.

Now, please do go ahead and enjoy the journal, and please do acknowledge it.

Once again welcome to our new members, and do hope they'll enjoy their stay, and will be with us for a long time.

Betty Layaz	Jean Wall	Ann Carter
Brian Jones	Nati Reyes	Rosalee Coy

* *

Our Birthday List

Brian Jones - 23, Plas Road Fleur-De-Lis Pengam, Mon., England - Feb. 24
Mrs. Pearl Elliott - R.R. No. 3- Lakefield, Ontario, Canada
Lillian Potter - 37 Elvina Gardens - Toronto, Ontario, Canada (both) Apr. 3
Mary Maloney - 586 Adams Avenue - Elizabeth, New Jersey - May 6
Christina Gibb - 175 Broadway - Newark 4, New Jersey - May 8
Rena Albanesi - June 15
Florence Van Brock - 1823 Victor Street - St. Louis 4, Missouri - June 30

Bing - May 2 - 9028 Sunset Blvd. - Hollywood 46, California

* *

Snaps for Sale

1. Bing and Dixie in the 1930's
2. Bing alone in 1957
3. Mary Frances one day old
4. Bing, Kathryn Mary Frances leaving hospital (different from one included in this journal).
5. Bing looking through hospital window at Mary Frances
6. Bing and four boys reunion day

FROM KATHRYN GRANT CROSBY

November 16, 1959

Miss. Rena Albanesi
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers 4, New York

Dear Rena:

Mary Frances is a girl-type girl, so of course she wants to be in Bing Crosby's fan club. Even at the age of two months her eyes light up when she looks at him and she, like most of the women in the world, adores to have him croon to her. But then, Mary Frances takes after her mama.

Best wishes,

Kathryn Grant

KG:nb

* *

RECORD REVIEW

The Secret of Christmas - Moving seasonal ballad is sung with feeling and sincerity by Crosby. Tune is from his last movie, "Say One for Me".

Just What I Wanted for Christmas - Relaxed reading of attractive yule ditty with amusing lyrics. Both sides are fine jockey material for holidays.

(Billboard) October 25, 1959 Columbia - 41496

Secret of Christmas also included in an album, "A Christmas Festival of Stars" (CS 8189) It includes such stars as Mitch Miller, Johnny Mathis, and such.

The Happy Bachelor Gary Crosby Verve MGV 2121

The eldest of the Crosby sons sings with more conviction here than in any recent outing. He also gets the benefit of some exceptionally crisp and driving jazz-based backings from a sextet with trumpet, vibes and rhythm. The title tune is a machine gun delivery of the hip lingo, written by Johnny Mercer and the cat swings in much the same style thru a flock of pleasant tunes including Ray Charles' "This Little Girl of Mine". For the fans this is Gary Crosby in better than usual form.

(Billboard) December 14, 1959

We are looking forward to some new records in the future, as Larry says in his letter we will be having four albums to look forward to in the future.

FROM LARRY CROSBY

December 14, 1959

Miss. Rena Albanesi, President
THE CLUB CROSBY
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers 4, New York

Dear Rena:

There isn't much news to report, as the boss has been away sojourning in the hunting and fishing areas of Northern California, Idaho and Calgary for several weeks.

The only work he has done recently is some recordings, and the first will be out February by RCA titled "How the West Was Won." It's a two 12-inch set with a 24 page book by Life. With Bing are Clooney, Sam Hinton, Tarrytown Trio, award winners Jimmy Driftwood and the Morman Tabernacle Choir, a large orchestra and chorus.

Three more albums will follow.

Right now we are busy with Christmas mail and the golf tournament.

Enclosed is a negative and print of Bing with Harry Jr. hunting geese at his ranch in Northern California.

Best to all,

LC:vs

Larry Crosby

* *

Says Dean Martin:

He admits his idol is Bing Crosby, another relaxed family man.

"Who says you got to be unhappy to be a success?" asks Dean. "Look at Bing. You can only keep so much money anyhow. Why kill yourself to keep the internal revenue service on standby?"

Bing is so much an idol of Dean's that the affable Italian admits he copied his singing style from Bing. So did Como.

"When Bing had his tonsils taken out," says Dean, "I bought them." Dean says he and Como even imitate Crosby's vocal tricks.

"Bing always gargles on the white of an egg before he makes a record. Como, who started before me, gargles on the yellow. Me, I gargle on the shell."

(Movie Mirror) November, 1959

I have some back copies, of Bingang, anyone that is interested in purchasing any, I have the February, June and October issues, they are 35¢ each.

Bing, Kathryn and Mary Frances
leaving hospital

IT'S A GIRL

Mary Maloney

On the 14th. of September the glad news rang out across the land that Kathryn Crosby had given birth to a baby girl. This news brought much happiness and joy to Crosby fans all over the world. Surely, no one could have been happier than the proud father himself. The story goes that Bing had to be reasurred before he could believe his good fortune that his dream of a little Mary Frances had finally come true.

Little boys are wonderful but as a father of five boys, no one could blame Bing for wanting a girl.

In many cases parents don't have a name picked out for a baby when it is born. But in the case of Bing and Kathryn's little daughter no such problem presented itself. The name, in fact, had been picked out over a year ago, but couldn't be used for "she" turned out to be Harry Jr. The name was easy--Mary Frances--Mary after the Blessed Virgin and Frances for a beloved aunt of Kathryn's who had been the guiding inspiration in her child hood.

We, who have been fans of Bing's for so long, are happy that so much joy and contentment have come to Bing and Kathryn. Of course, congratulations are in order for little Mary Frances, too. A luckier little girl would be hard to find, even though, she's a little too young to realize it yet. Mary Frances will be cherished and loved by a devoted mother and father and five brothers. That's enough to turn any little girl's head, but we'll bet it won't, that is not if Mom can help it. Fathers have a way of spoiling daughters, so they say.

We're coming to the start of a brand new year and all of Bing's

IT'S A GIRL.....Cont'd.

fans wish all the Crosby's a Happy New Year. Instead of singing, "AULD LANG SYNE" this New Year's Bing can sing "THANK HEAVENS FOR LITTLE GIRLS" and really mean it.

In concluding this article an old nursery rhyme comes to mind, but with a new twist for this occasion:

WHAT ARE LITTLE GIRLS MADE OF?
SUGAR AND SPICE AND EVERYTHING NICE
THAT'S WHAT LITTLE GIRLS ARE MADE!

(Just like Mary Frances Crosby).
(586 Adams Avenue - Elizabeth, New Jersey)

* *

Big 3 in Durante Story

The greatest combination of stars outside of heaven-Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin-billed in just that order, go to Columbia Studio for "The Jimmy Durante Story". At the crack of dawn. Sam Briskin, head of Columbia was joyfully telling the good news.

This is the lucky studio for all three, Frank made his greatest comeback in "From Here to Eternity", Bing made one of his biggest successes, "Pennies From Heaven" there, and Dean Martin has just finished, "Who Was That Lady" and has agreed to do two more pictures. Frank Capra will direct the movie, and as the world knows he was kingpin at Columbia for years.

Here is the lineup:

Dean plays Jimmy, Frank will be Lou Clayton and Bing as Eddie Jackson. The music is by Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen, and the starstudded musical rolls after the first of the year.
(New York Journal American) Louella Parsons October 2, 1959

Durante Pic on Unprecedented %

The Frank Capra "Jimmy Durante Story" package going to Columbia may be one of the most spectacular deals ever entered into by a film company with an indepent group.

The three stars, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin and producer-director Capra start off. It's believed, by sharing a guarantee of $1,000,000, this against a percentage of the profits.

Agreement, per the William Morris Agency, gives Durante $250,000 for the biographical rights and a still-to-be-set amount as writing charge, including a payoff to Durante biographer Gene Fowler.

Apparently Columbia waives the right to any control over the production up to a budget of $5,000,000. Other angles have not yielded to digging but are thought to introduce a new concept in distribution as concerning the rentals split between film company and production unit.
(Variety) October 21, 1959

Daddy-O Has Bing in College

Bing Crosby in College is an idea that intrigues me, and that's what is going to happen in "Daddy-O". Who do you think are Bing's classmates?

Wait 'til I tell you-Fabian and Carol Lynley! If you here the sound of music in the background, you're right-Bingo will sing. But I'm told he has one heck of a time in school, and flunks in all his subjects. It is an original story by Garson Kanin, which Buddy Adler bought for Charles Brackett. It also co-stars Barrie Chase.
(New York Journal American) Louella Parsons October 15, 1959

JUST BITS OF INTEREST

Rady Cutting Bing-Satchmo Dust Package

Si Rady will this week start recording Bing Crosby and Louis Armstrong in the second package to be produced by his Project Records. First was the recently completed, "How the West Was Won", double-LP disk adaptation of the Life Magazine series. It's being released via RCA Victor, Records as a de luxe offering including text and four-color illustrations carried by Life.

New album will be tagged "Bing and Satchmo," featuring the performers in duet versions of standards with the Billy May orchestra accompanying. Special versions by the respective composers to better suit the artists' personalties. Alteration, consisting mostly of minor changes in the lyrics, are aimed at giving the evergrreens a fresh ring, and at the same time dovetailing the material more closely to the performers.

Tunesmiths who have made the special adaptations include Irving Berlin, Sammy Cahn, Frank Loesser, Johnny Mercer, and Jimmy Van Heusen, among others. Rady currently is negotiating with several majors for the realize of the album.

(Billboard) October 12, 1959

Bing Crosby turned up early and regularly for his Sinatra Show rehearsals but not Frank or Dean Martin.

(New York Journal American) October 22, 1959

Bing Crosby has given the oaky for motion picture cameras to be allowed in his home for the first time. They'll film a March of Dimes trailer starring Bing. Wife Kathryn Grant Crosby will narrate a plea for more nurses aides. Bing gifted 14-month-old Harry with a complete fishing set in minature. He calls his new daughter Princess.

November 1, 1959

Arthur Godfrey who missed the Sinatra-Bing Crosby-Dean Martin video special and was curious about it, requested a private screening but walked out in a huff halfway through because he couldn't understand why his secretary and another woman who's been invited to attend were swooning over Frank. (Godfrey also said, "Who's that?" when Dean Martin first came on the screen.)

(New York Journal American) Dorothy Kilgallen November 6, 1959

Henry Stampler got to talking about strange bets when he recalled the time he was at the World's Fair at Flushing Meadows and overheard two men talking about diving off the fifty-foot board. Henry became fascinated and added $50 to the second man's wager that the first man wouldn't have the nerve to dive off the high board with his clothes on. The latter accepted the challenge shook hands and then without even removing his jacket, made a perfect swan dive into the pool. The human swan was Bing Crosby. "Yes Hy, the story you queried me about is substantially true," Bing confirms. "The fella I was with was a Meadowbrook member named Harvey Schaffer, and it was at the Billy Rose Aquacade....Truth to tell, I was about half full of Flit, and clinging even more rigidly to the truth I must admit it wasn't the perfect swan dive, but a cross between a belly flop and a pratfall....So there you are. All best regards."

(Herald Tribune) Hy Gardner December 2, 1959

This I wouldn't have believed: Bob Hope and Bing Crosby are about to give Conrad Hilton some competition. They're negotiating to buy two New York hotels and another in Chicago.

(Daily News) Hedda Hopper December 4, 1959

JUST BITS OF INTEREST.....Cont'd.

Bing Crosby who usually turns down such things, is writing the foreward to Ken Murray's autobiography, "My Life on a Pogo Stick". Also Bing, who hasn't been in the Cocoanut Grove since 1929 when he had a quarrel with the management, will be on hand Dec. 26 for Ken's opening there
(New York Journal American) Louella Parsons December 7, 1959

Kathryn Crosby had a big surprise for Bing, a six-foot-high charcoal drawing done by his favorite artist. But on the way she dropped it. When the portrait gets a new glass front, it will hang in his Rising River ranch.
(World Telegram & Sun) Frank Farrell December 8, 1959

Not one of the new Santamental tunes come close to, "White Christmas."
(Daily Mirror) Walter Winchell December 11, 1959

Bing Crosby and Perry Como are working out an exchange deal. Otherwise they couldn't afford each other.
(Variety) December 16, 1959

This is the era of "boy singers"-and practically every song publishing house, every recording firm, every booking agent, has a "hot new kid we're keeping under wraps until the right time." They're recruited from high schools, grammar schools, and even reform schools -and they range in age from 14 to 19. You'll find them tagged by their sponsors with monikers like "Rory," "Frankie," "Chico", "Crash", etc. The "finds" are encouraged to ape established oldsters like Perry Como, Bing Crosby, and if they have the energy, "old men" like Elvis Presley and Johnnie Ray. This could be a worse plague than the murderous juvenile delinquency currently afflicting society...
(New York Journal American) Louis Sobel September 10, 1959

While the nonmusical version of, "The Bells of St. Mary's," which was last nights CBS-TV "Special Tonight" offering starring Robert Preston and Claudette Colbert, was a pleasant 90 minutes of entertainment, the TV play was not as warmly wrapped and gently delivered as the 1945 movie version.
One of the reasons for this unfortunately was Robert Preston's interpretation of the role of Father O'Malley, in which he injected a little modern-day brass into the easy-going, understanding pastor of St. Mary's, portrayed so perfectly by Bing Crosby in the film.
(Daily News) October 28, 1959

Perry Como's adamant in his refusal to swap appearances for guest stars. His reasoning is that there is no novelty in a guest who is seen weekly on his own show. Thus he turned down the network's plan to have him swap with DINAH SHORE. The only person he'd be willing to do it with is BING CROSBY.
(TV Guide) October 3-9, 1959

"It's a girl" The doctor smiled at Bing Crosby anxiously pacing the hospital father's room. "It's a what?" Bing demanded. And not until daddy Crosby was reasurred by his radiant wife, Kathryn, could he believe his good fortune. After five sons, his dream of a little Mary Frances had finally come true. I was more nervous this time than ever before," Bing told me later. "I kinda had a feeling something special was happening.

(Photoplay) December, 1959

I wish Frank Capra luck if he thinks Jimmy Durante will reveal the true identity of Mrs. Calabash. I did an interview with Jimmy last year and he told me Calabash was a town between here and New York where he and his late wife stopped en route to Hollywood, and they were fascinated with the little town. I have never been able to find it on the map, but I'm sure it must exist somewhere. Maybe Jimmy will talk to Frank, who is back on his home lot-Columbia, preparing the "Jimmy Durante Story", and reveal more about the identity of Mrs. Calabash.
(New York Journal American) Louella Parsons December 19, 1959

Bing Crosby and Perry Como will be exchanging guest visits after all. The on-again off-again swap marking the first TV teaming of the crooners, will be seen in February and March. Crosby's sons are to join the stars. Como flies to Hollywood next month for the taping of Crosby's ABC spec due Monday, February 29 at 8:30 P.M. Crosby will journey here for a live stint on Como's March 16 NBColorcast. Gary Crosby's appearance with brothers Philip, Lindsay and Dennis is tentative. George Rosenberg, the quartet's manager, says Gary's visit depends on his recovery from a throat ailment.
(Daily News) December 22, 1959

Bing Crosby said today he expects three of his four singing sons will team with him and Perry Como in a television show Feb. 29.
But Gary Crosby will not participate Bing said because of a throat ailment.
Crosby has appeared with Lindsay and Gary separately and with twins Dennis and Philip on another occasion. But he has never done a show with three of the boys at one time.
(Daily Mirror) December 23, 1959

The royalties from Bing's platters of "Silent Night" and "Adeste Fidelis" enrich various charities.
(Daily Mirror) Walter Winchell December 24, 1959
* *
Dr. Harry Byron noted Hollywood psychiatrist, wrote this open letter to Bing, in the February issue of Movie TV Secrets, and I kinda do agree with him:

AN OPEN LETTER TO BING CROSBY:

It's accepted generally that you are an American institution. We accept that, too. Like apple pie and the flag, you stand for America in the minds of millions. Is it necessary to bare your soul about your dealings with your sons? So what! Roosevelt's boys had more than their share of scrapes also. Yet the former President never would have said, "I'm not so sure I raised my boys the right way," to paraphrase your famous quote. Your boys love you, America loves you. Everyone has faults. It proves you're only human. In other words, stop apologizing for any of your actions. You're among friends, Bing.

You can hear Kathryn's voice as Princess Yasminda, in the Columbia Full Length Animated Feature "1001 Arabian Nights", featuring, Jim Backus as Magoo, and also co-starring, Dwayne Hickman, and Hans Conried. I have not yet seen this, but I know I will, as I've enjoyed everything I've seen her in.

Bing and Harry Jr. in
Northern California

A BIT FROM FRED ASTAIRE'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

"Holiday Inn" was one of the biggest musical setups of those times and it proved to be a top grossing picture. (Well natch, with the great Crosby in it.) I had a lot of numbers and several interesting dance bits with "Cros". He surprised me. Having heard that he didn't like to rehearse much, I was amazed when he showed up in practice clothes to rehearse our first song and dance, "I'll Capture Her Heart."

Berlin's score, including old songs as well as new ones, was an outstanding attraction of Inn. This was the picture in which Bing first introduced, "White Christmas".

We then worked together in, "Blue Skies". There were many numbers in Blue Skies, as is always the cast in a Berlin picture. It took a long time to prepare and shoot it, especially with my solo specialties to be done at the very end.

Cros and I worked together a lot and I enjoyed it all, especially our number "A Couple of Song and Dance Men." We threw everything but the doormat into that one.

After announcing many times I was going to retire, I starred in, "Easter Parade". A pleasant surprise came to me in a letter from Bing. He wrote: "For a guy who had retired ostensibly your comeback represents the greatest event since Satchel Paige."

(Some of this was put in my own words, to make it tie in. I do hope I won't get into any trouble with anyone.

FROM THE WEST COAST
Priscilla Koernig

Hi Everyone,

It's journal time again and I hope you will enjoy my article. I hope that the next journal will include another meeting with Bing at his golf tournament. This year the tournament will be more exciting. Rena will be in San Francisco and will drive down to Pebble Beach with me. As the time draws nearer we're getting more and more anxious.

Between Christmas and New Year's Donna and I will be driving to Los Angeles via Las Vegas. We will visit the Crosby Office and other Crosby-known places. I'll report about that next trip, so, on with the articles I've collected for this time.

S.F. News-Call Bulletin, 9-15-59---BING WAHOOPS OVER FIRST GIRL*** Crooner Bing Crosby, father of five sons, let out a joyful "wahoo" last night at the hospital when his wife, actress (Kathryn Grant, gave birth to their first daughter. "You could hear him the length of the corridor," said an attendant, "and the corridor is about two blocks long." The 6-pound, 15-ounce girl was named Mary Frances. The Crosby's have another child, Harry Lillis Crosby III, born August 8, 1958. Bing arrived in typical attire-soft straw hat, sweater and slacks. He appeared fairly composed, but paced around the hospital before the birth.

L.A. Examiner, 9-21-59--There was a tiny, little girl in the Crosby home yesterday, and Crooner Bing held his first female infant with undisguised delight. He came out of Queen of the Angels Hospital with his new daughter, Mary Frances, born last Monday, with his smiling young wife, Kathryn. They posed on the hospital parking lot for photographers. Father of four sons by his late first wife, Dixie, and of Harry Lillis (Tex) Crosby III by Kathryn, August 8, 1958 of last year, Bing glanced down at 6-pound 15-ounce Mary and said to Kathryn in pride: 'She isn't so red now, is she? Newsmen asked the happy couple how many children they planned to have. The breadwinner of the family answered: "That's in the hands of Heaven."

L.A. Examiner, 10-17-59---BING DAUGHTER PLAYS IT COOL AT CHRISTENING*** Westwood, October 16---Miss. Mary Frances Crosby, whose father, Bing, sings, turned in a top-notch performance today for her christening at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church. This report came from the infant's beaming mother, actress Kathryn Grant, who said the Crosby's first daughter slept through most of the ceremony, but didn't cry even when she woke. Mary Frances' year old brother, Harry (sometimes called Tex) livened up things with a little impromptu "singing", his mother said. Godparents for the infant were Mrs. Frances Sullivan of Lake Jackson, Texas, Kathryn's aunt for whom the baby was named, and Lindsay Crosby, one of Bing's four sons by his first marriage. Grandmothers, Mrs. D.E. Grandstaff, who flew in from West Columbia, Texas, for the ceremony, and Mrs. Katherine Crosby, also were among the handful of guests. The baby wore a white organdy dress, a gift from her Godmother, a silk robe, which her brother had worn at his christening, a silk bonnet and a tiny gold cross, which had been blessed by Pope John XXIII.

S.F. Chronicle, 9-24-59---There was quite a fuss at Chasen's in Hollywood when a Hawaiian girl wanted to ask Bing Crosby for his autograph and her escort forcibly stopped her. Bing (dining with Kathryn Grant) noticed the disturbance. When the girl was leaving, he walked over and gave her his autograph at the door.

S.F. Chronicle, 10-59---Mrs. Bing Crosby's Mary Frances was born September 14. Before she and Bing took off for their Rising River Ranch she notified her studio she's ready to return to work and asked what they have in mind.

Here's a copy of a nice letter I received from Bing---

October 2, 1959

Dear Priscilla:

Glad you liked the television show. It had a few mechanical deficiencies - things that we should have prepared for, but didn't. I think it finished on a very happy note, anyhow, which is probably a saving grace in these kind of shows.

You were right about "Thank Heaven for Little Girls". We did plan to do some of it at the finish of the show, but time ran out, so it wasn't possible.

If you come to the tournament at Pebble Beach, I'll be happy to take a picture with you, if it would please you.

With all best regards to you and your family -

Most Sincerely

BC:lm

Bing Crosby

That's about all the news from the West Coast for this time. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and very prosperous New Year.

Priscilla

(349 Banks Street, San Francisco 10, California)

* * * *

SOUTHERN CROSS DRAICH — Thelma Hardie

Well members, the highlight this time to tell you about seeing, "Say One for Me" which had its Christchurch season recently. I enjoyed it immensely; it was good seeing Bing on the screen again after such a long absence. We hope that it will not be so long before we see him in another movie.

Recently we had the opportunity of seeing Gary in, "Holiday for Lovers". This is a bright little story with beautiful scenery and lovely girls. It certainly was real holiday fare, and Gary gave an outstanding performance. I am looking forward to seeing, "A Private's Affair" which will be here next week. Gary is doing very well, we do wish him all the best for the future.

Kathryn's two films, "The Big Circus", and "Anatomy of a Murder" are due for early release over here, so we are well catered for, don't you agree?

Many of our Australian members had the pleasure of seeing Bing's four boys on Bob Hope's television show. This was a great thrill for them. How we envy them. Oh! for television!!!

All for now, so goodbye, and best wishes for 1960.

* * * \

Bing's style was his own and different. And he became a star.
When Sinatra came on the scene, most singers were imitating Crosby, Frank had a different sound and he, too, became a star.
(New York Journal American) September 11, 1959

* *

TAPE CROSBY Sheldon O'Connell

Bing Crosby tape recording fans build their collection by exchange. When the Blue of the Night meets the Gold of the Day, a chain of inveterate Crosby collectors in England, the United States, Canada and Australia are taping notes in their collections for enthusiats all over the world. It's a unique kind of exchange called Tape Crosby, featuring discussions and comparisons about different phases of the performer's work. Each of the members is invited to pose a question, really a topic for discussion, as the tape passes along, other members add their comments, snatches of music, unusual episodes of Crosbyana, odd recordings, out of the way material, a fascinating hour of listening for the most jaded collector.

Since the Crosby radio show was the first to realize and promote the taping of broadcasts rather than go along with disc or live performances, its somehow fitting that Crosby be the subject of this novel tape exchange, yet the two are completely unrelated. Tape Crosby was begun by a large number of collectors, quite spontaneously, as a means of keeping in touch and listening to recordings not in their own collection. Something new is always added, not only have there been thousands of records made, but program material from radio shows, dubbings, film sound tracks, airshots and a variety of material from other sources.

Individual collections are sometimes quite small, numbering just a few records, but collectively, the enthusiasts have or can account for just about every record Crosby has made.

Some little known facts become known thru this tape exchange. How one can look at a record and soon decipher those strange markings, each in its own way as distinctive as a fingerprint; the approximate year and date a number was made, the number of takes required before the technical or artistic level merited its release, sometimes two takes of the same selection are released, one later than the other. Occasional errors are made, a faulty label, a call-back, scrapped master, a forgotten line, maybe someone laughed or otherwise marred a take. These records assume a peculiarly high value in the eyes of collectors. Tape Crosby is not a fan club, it features a genuine comparing and differing of opinion on the worth of the performer. Various performances, sides, even past films are reviewed. Instead of ecstatic reviews and comment by the film archivist, remarks are right to the point, penetrating and highly entertaining. Since anyone with projectionist equipment can see over the early Max Sennett two reelers in which Crosby appeared and hear the soundtrack, it makes for an interesting comparison of today's and yesteryear's style. Many of these old films have been made available for the home viewer market, they've been tightened up, edited, given a new title to cover the variety of scenes that encompass perhaps the best material from two or three pictures. Much of the music was never released on record, and is now finding its audience on tape.

A companion piece that complements the tape is a bi-monthly Crosby Collector, a small mimeographed publication that lists the serial numbers and sides in a lighthearted compilation of data for those on the Road to Crosby. While this is the first international tape devoted to the work of a single performer, another is planned by a group who cherished the big band sound of Glenn Miller, they plan to call their tape, The Moonlight Serenaders. Material for it is just about everywhere too.

'V' discs, those were the Victory discs made for Allied servicemen during World II, non-commerical performances for the men in uniform. Some priceless performances were etched on the big transcriptions, these were given a play then filed away, some were lost, and others recognized for their worth were carefully preserved. This hobby of taped discussions about recording dates, matrix numbers, takes, sides and labels is spoken of as knowledgeably by women as well as men, it is not a male occupation only. One avid collector did a considerable amount of research to learn if Crosby had ever made any records with the Glenn Miller orchestra. He checked carefully through the Miller discography which listed actual broadcasts the two had done together, but nothing about record material. However, another collector able to provide, the missing information reported that in fact two had been made. These were non-commerical and especially for the Stage Door Canteen in London. It was during the year 1944, though the exact date remains a mystery. One of the sides "Why Don't You Fall in Love with Me," the other, "I'll Be Seeing You," each with the full American Expeditionary Forces orchestra.

When a rare record is found or traded the material is at once transferred to tape to preserve it from water or other dangers, since old records are notoriously fragile and subject to breakage with each playing. The record is first given a mild bath in lukewarm water, this won't harm it and in cases where dust and grime have been allowed to collect in the grooves for a period of years, this treatment is necessary. The record can be cleaned in this fashion without wetting the label which can be damp wiped after. However, the label if it's a pressing won't be harmed by a good soaking too. A gentle soap first rub on the hands rather than to the face of the disc will losen up the sludge and dust in no time, after which it is rinsed in free running water. The record dries after a few turns in the air and blotting with a lint free cloth. Even in mint condition the old shellac base records were inclined to be a little noisy after just a few playings. When the material is transferred to tape the recorded performances can be enjoyed time and again, studied for those qualities that brought them to the collection, and there's no ensuing drop in quality. In many cases it is vastly improved by filtering out the high frequency hiss during the feed from phono to tape. There is another important factor to be considered in the re-recording of old 78 rpm records. In this context, "old" is anything in the record line that pre-dates 1927. A number of the early records, those which have become collector's items, were made to be used with a 2.5 stylus. Modern day 78's employ a 3-mil tip, therefore each playing with persent day stylus will increase the noise level, imperceptibly at first, but more evident with repeated playings. For this reason alone, no time is lost in transferring to the tape. Not all records before 1927 were pressed for the 2.5 needle tip, and short of a photomicrograph there's no way of knowing for sure except by using both sides of styli to determine which produces the least surface noise, and is thereby correct. Collector's items can be greatly enchanced when dubbed from record to tape by using a filter-equalizer. Since there is often a wide range of characteristics prominent in some records, missing in others, compensation offered by the various equalization settings can make a dramatic improvement in the finished copy. Indeed the copy comes to sound as an original should. However, it shouldn't be felt that this extra equipment is vital to the successful transferal of record to tape. Except in extreme cases, excellent results can be had by a direct unaltered feed from output to input. Some purists in fact do not want the original changed in any way, cleaned yes, and dubbed direct, but that's all. Some rare and unusual material has found its way into these highly specialized collections.

One example is a record that owes its distinction not to an unusual presentation, flubbed line or special arrangement, but to its unique label. The only one in existence. The record is a 10 inch 78 of, "After Sundown," on one side backed by "Beautiful Girl" on the other, the same commerical tunes and masters as used on Brunswick 6694 with two exceptions, the labels have no printed record number on either side, and the name of the artist is given as Bill Williams. A couple of gagsters at Brunswick doctored the label and presented it to Jack Kapp as a rare find they'd made of a voice that sang just like Crosby, not only could this Williams sing like Bing, but he was most willing to sign a contract and join the Kapp camp. Kapp who was in New York at the time, deserves to be congratulated on his business acumen, he at once left for L.A. to meet Bill Williams, upon arrival he learned the truth that the audition record was simply a dubbing of Bing's voice with fixed labels. This remained in his personal record library until his death, perhaps as a gentle reminder to hold enthusiasm in check when presented with a ringer, and things too good to be true, usually are.

Crosby, aware of the interest shown his recordings by Collectors, and of the bewildering array of dates and conditions under which he recorded, has been happy to provide what clues his memory holds about different sides, and of their possible origin. Like that one hilarious afternoon when everything went wrong except the mechanism that recorded it. At a signal from the director the orchestra began to play, it was a number called "Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams," the voice that launched a thousand dealers began to sing the sentimental verse, that when skies are cloudy or grey the only thing that will help is to wrap your troubles in dreams, and dream those troubles away...and that's when the trouble began, because someone had been dreaming right along and neglected to inform the singer of an important last minute change in the arrangement, as a result the voice seemed to head down one road, the orchestra, another. Without pausing, Crosby continued the melody but changed the words to express his chagrin at being caught unaware. As a novelty that test record was put to one side and copies of it, too, became collector's items, however, the significant thing about that recording session, was that "Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams" in spite of its setbacks arriving at a proper take, went on to become a solid gold record for its time.

It's the hope of many collector's that the "V" discs which carried the work of so many front rank entertainers will be released on tape. Rather than see them destroyed, some of the Victory discs fell into the hands of collectors, others fell to the Pirates, those are the record buccaneers who sail the choppy waters of illegal practice. However, the vault original, for the most part intact, have since been dubbed to tape and eventually may appear on the market. These performances had an ad-lib, open air sound, and were often recorded just like that, a platform rigged up for the Crosby, Goodman, Hope, James, Miller tours of duty, surrounded on all sides by eager-faced GI's. The cheers, laughs, banter and applause make those moments come to life.

It's material ranging from the Coconut Grove in Los Angeles, and the days of Gus Arnheim and Paul Whiteman, forward to the Jet age with the Buddy Bregman orchestra and Bob Scobey's band. Teeing off in music from Pebble Beach to the Western sounds of Elko, Nevada, with lots of stops along the way for anecdotes, novel and outstanding records that make Tape Crosby a full hour of fascinating listening. When the Blue of the Night, meets the Gold of the Day, tape dons a sport shirt, takes a few puffs from a comfortable pipe and winds its way on the Road to Playback.

Bing, Rosemary Clooney, Louis Armstrong
The Hi-Lo's

* * * \

Jean Wall
West Pond Road
North Brandford, Connecticut

Jean, age 16, would like to write to members in other states and countries. She likes Bing, Perry Como, Gary Cooper, Rossano Brazzi and Frank Lovejoy. Her special interests are sports (especially the Yankees), horseback riding and music.

Mrs. Dorothy Hardiman
120 High Street
Smethwick 41, Staffs
England

Dot, former president of the British Crosby Society and it's present secretary, has corresponded with me for some years now. She would like to exchange letters with a housewife in the States, preferably in the Southern States.

Jeffrey Geist
3-40 28th. Street
Fair Lawn, New Jersey

Jeff sends along this letter of introduction: I have been a fan of Bing Crosby for about five years now. I have a large collection of his recordings, including some of his early ones that he made with Paul Whiteman. I also tape record the songs that Bing sang in his early motion pictures that are now being shown on television, such as, "East Side of Heaven" and "Pennies from Heaven". I hope that some day in the near future Bing's newer movies will be shown so that I can also tape record the songs from them.

I am sixteen years of age and attend Fair Lawn High School here in New Jersey where I am in my Junior year. I belong to the Audio-Visual Club in school where I am being trained how to properly work a 16mm. projector so that someday I can show some of Bing's films in my home.

The thing I miss in radio today is the old thirty minute shows, that used to feature the songs of Bing everyday. I used to look forward to hearing these Crosby radio programs. They used to have these shows on the air three times a day, here in the New York area, but today these shows have vanished from radio, and you hardly ever hear a Crosby record nowadays here in this part of the country. I personally hope that they will bring back the old Crosby record shows in the near future so that I can once again enjoy radio at it's very best.

In my opinion Bing is still tops. I enjoyed his latest picture, "Say One for Me" very much, and I hope that Bing is on his way to making another film real soon. As for television appearances Bing is not on enough. I personally wish that he would do weekly hour shows similar to the ones Perry Como does, for this would give me a better chance to see Bing more often. I enjoyed his latest television show very much, and can't wait to see this one.

I am very interested in collecting the early recordings that Bing made on the Brunswick, Columbia and Victor labels. If there are any members who have doubles of any of these recordings that Bing made on these labels in the late 20's and early 30's I would appreciate hearing from them in regard to this matter. I Know I am going to enjoy being a member of this club and can hardly wait to receive my next issue of Bingang. I also am looking forward to hearing from some of you pen pals.

Thanks to Jeff for his extra special letter and also to the other members who wrote to me this month. Do hope to hear from more of you soon.

Another new member who wishes pen pals, hope to have more on him in the next issue:
Brian Jones - 23, Plas Road, Fleur-De-Lis, Pengam, Mon., England

Drop a note or letter to: Pat Sullivan
3134 North 53rd, Street
Milwaukee 16, Wisconsin

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Bing Crosby's Lone TV Production Draws Dust — Marie Torre

The appearance of Bing Crosby on ABC tonight reminds us that a full year has passed since a desire to build a TV empire prompted him to sign a five-year producer-performer contract with the network. Crosby's performed with regularity on TV, but we can't see that he's "produced" anything but a baby daughter (finally!) since the agreement went into effect.

At this point in the association, the Crosby label should be affixed to two pilot films financed by ABC, which is contractually obliged to put up for ten pilot films in all-two a year.

Well, there are not two Crosby pilot films in existence. There's only one...and it's gathering dust on some shelf at Crosby headquarters.

This puts the veteran showman in the same boat, boat with most boat with most package producers in TV (or should we say out of TV?), except that his bank account is solvent. We had to ask Crosby "what happened?"

His answer was cryptic and casual. "Who's to say?" was the rejoinder. "We couldn't get a time slot for the pilot we completed, so we abandoned plans for a second series. Maybe if we had come up with a sentimental pilot, they'd have found a time slot for it.

By "they" Crosby means of course, the ABC network, which can't be accused of practicing what it preaches. While network officials were still celebrating Crosby's arrival a year ago, one of the vice-presidents was moved to declare: "I think that Crosby sensed our willingness and enthusiam to assist him in the development of other properties-probably his efforts to build a Desilu. We've had a success in working with independent producers in the past, and I suppose that impressed Crosby."

It's a matter of conjecture whether Crosby is still "impressed," but he says that ABC is obligated to finance ten plot films and he expects to hold the network to the promise. "If we can't sell them," remarked Crosby, with tongue in check, "we can put them together and come up with an anthology series. That's what they do with unsold pilot films, don't they?"

(New York Herald Tribune) September 29, 1959

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Anyone interested in joining a fan club for Eric Fleming star of television's "Rawhide", dues are 50¢ per year, plus 2 - 4¢ stamps, you will receive membership card, three issues of club journal, pictures of some of your favorite stars, and newsletters throughout the year. You will also have the opportunity to make friends through the pen pals column. Please write to: Miss. Nati Reyes, P.O. Box 683, Eastland, Texas.

Looking through some of my old copies of, "Bingang", I came across a poem about Bing, in the November, 1948 issue, I hope you'll enjoy it. I'll put it down just as it was written then:

Best known and best loved of radio story-tellers in Australia, Tal Ordell, who died recently, wrote the following poem about our Bing. An Australian visitor in Hollywood recently revealed that Bing has the poem framed and hanging on the wall of his dressing room. Our thanks to Australian Branch Leader, Barbara Doggett, for sending us a copy of the poem so that you may all read it.

GREETINGS TO BING CROSBY

by Tal Ordell

This old world is full of singers- from the mountains to the sea
Pouring out their songs of gladness in a stream of melody.
As lavish as the wildflowers in the golden heart of Spring,
But clear above the madrigals we hear the voice of Bing:

"Where the blue of the night
Meets the gold of the day,
Someone waits for me."

He is part of all the music that is mounting to the dome,
And as honest as the poet's heart that gave us "Home Sweet Home."
He's the soul of all the golden notes the waves of ether fling,
For Brian Howard won our hearts when gave us "Bing and Swing."

"And the gold of her hair
Crowns the blue of her eyes,
Like a halo tenderly."

In the cottage and the mansion, when the twilight glow has gone,
Comes his magic in the gloaming when they switch the wireless on;
But around the sullen camp-fires, in the Never Never Zone,
Lonely swagmen hear him singing on a battered gramaphone:

"There's a happy land somewhere,
And it's just a prayer away,
All I've dreamed and planned is there,
And it's just a prayer away."

They are grateful to the shadows as they listen to his song,
For their eyes are dim and misty and their memories are long
Of the promise lightly broken and the worshipping of Baal,
That banished them forever to the never-ending trail.

"When My heart will sing,
For it means one thing
I'll be home at the close of each day."

There are shining stars who listen to calls across the sea,
And pack their trunks for London Town and then go to gay Paree;
Let them go, we live down under, but to one sweet hope we cling,
Can't you hear Australia Calling? - We are waiting for you, Bing!

Since few large pleasures are lent
us on a long lease, it is wise to
cultivate a large undergrowth of
small pleasures. Mary A. Livermore

TELEVISION DOINGS

CROSBY PROVES HE'S STILL TOPS

It looks today as if the cultural lag between Bing Crosby and the rest of television will have to be calculated in light years.

While other TV variety shows keep sending the same old bucket down an empty well, Crosby comes on like a fresh moutain spring. To have missed his show on ABC last night is to have missed an hour of pure and continuous delight.

With Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee, and Louis Armstrong, Crosby offered nothing more than an hour of great old songs. But oh, the taste; the wit, the lilting rhythm, the gentle mockery, and the high, shimmering style that went into those old songs! Here, indeed was the art that conceals art.

The settings conceived by director Bill Colleran, were entirely made of glass-or plastic that looked like glass. Some stunning, luminous effects were achieved. For instance, Peggy Lee, costumed like a young Mae West, sang "Baubles, Bangles, Beads" in a forest of chandeliers. Prisms, prisms everywhere, a mossaic of shimmer and shadow.

There was but one interlude of straight talk. "Pull up a glass and sit down," said host Crosby to guest Sinatra. Their colloquy may have relied too much on special coterie humor, but it was racy, vivid, real talk. It does no harm to learn of some of the odd folkways in Palm Springs ("the house dick rides around on a burro", said Sinatra of a certain motel), but most of all, it was a joy to hear TV talk that did not sound "scripted" by six gag writers.

So rich in good things was this Crosby hour that one hesitates to single out a lone number and proclaim, "This was the best!" Virtually everything seemed best at the moment.

Was it Crosby's closing number, with the great grinning growling Satchmo? They sang, "Basin Street Blues," "Lazybones," "Up a Lazy River," "Everybody Loves My Baby"-all the songs that compel you to sing along with them, even though it's an act of sheer impudence, to say the least.

Or was it the very deft and witty "Too Neat To Be a Beatnik, Too Round To Be a Square?"

A satire on beatniks by the clever Jayne Turner Dancers was most engaging. And Axel Stordahl's orchestra provided some brillant backgrounds. In sum, a great show.

(World Telegram & Sun) Harriet VanHorne September 30, 1959

That new daddy, Bing Crosby hosted a blithe musical Tuesday night on ABC-TV. For the soiree, Bing invited, Frank Sinatra, Louis Armstrong, and Peggy Lee with Joe Bushkin, George Shearing and Paul Smith at the Baby Grands for his chums. Mr Crosby, who merchanted casualness long before Mr. Como had a stool to sit on, bantered and sang with relaxed charm and his celebrated guests had a picnic.

(New York Mirror) Nick Kenney October 1, 1959

Despite the interest in baseball, NBC's World Series spec was knocked out of the box when Bing Crosby went to bat at 9:30 P.M. His ABC musical won the game of ratings with a 20.1 average Trendex for the hour, followed by CBS' 19.0.

(Daily News) October 1, 1959

Bing Crosby came back to tv for his first time up this season with Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee and Louis Armstrong, and ran away with the ratings on the overnight Abritrons in both the 9:30 and 10 o'clock segments.

TELEVISION DOINGS.....Cont'd.

Sinatra Show Has Style, Wit

Last night's Frank Sinatra show was spectacularly good. It had style wit, nostalgia and a total inreverence for the tired conventions of the standard TV variety show. It was, to lapse into the star's own idiom a real gasser, Clyde.

And if ever Maverick throws a shoe or Wyatt Earp can't find his embroidered vest, ABC would do us all a favor by re-running last night's tape. I wouldn't ever object to that lunatic commerical in which John Cameron Swayze defies the elements of the deep to give his wrist watch the "torture test" (and aptly named it is). This was a show worthy of encore, no matter what the price.

Sinatra's guests were Bing Crosby, Dean Martin and Mitzi Gaynor. The three men-happily playing rogue, rascal and rake-sang marvelously and tosed off the kind of backhand banter that sounded absolutely spontaneous. Their timing was casual, expert and dandy.

From the opening rendition of High Hopes to the closing salute to the nightclub act of Clayton, Jackson and Durante, the show was sheer delight.

Most of the songs were old songs, and in a double sense. And who did not join right in when the boys harmonized, "The Old Mill Stream," "Old Rockin' Chair", "My Old Flame", and all the other dearly familiar tunes.

Bing Crosby, is of course, the perfect guest star on a show of this sort. He's still wearing that wide-kneed tuxedo he must have had since he was a junior at old Gonzaga. But his warmth, his grace, his blessed way with a song obviate all criticism. One wouldn't care if he came on in his old bathrobe.

(World Telegram & Sun) Harriet VanHorne October 20, 1959

On deck for Frank Sinatra's first specials was, Bing Crosby, Dean Martin, and Mitzi Gaynor (with a surprise appearance of Jimmy Durante for the finale). Spice it up with those distinctive touches that have now become par for the course where producer-director Bill Colleran is concerned.

In the words of the Bingo, bring the three vagrant minstrels together and brother, you got yourself a summit meeting. You've got to go a long way to find three personalities who blend with such perfection. The trio's closer providing a tantalizing sneak of their Clayton, Jackson & Durante filmization on the drawing board for '60, was whammo from the "Start Off Each Day With a Song" to "Inka Dinka Doo" and "Bill Bailey" (with, of course the Schnoz himself as the clincher).

(Variety) October 21, 1959

It's curious how performers vary from show to show. When Sinatra and Martin appeared a few weeks ago with Bing Crosby, both were in top form. Their respect for their audience was noticeably higher too.

It could be of course, that with Crosby all entertainers stand a little straighter, sing a little better. Knowing they're sharing the stage with a star brings out the best. Result is usually a special treat, something lifted above the commonplace.

(World Telegram & Sun) Harriet VanHorne November 4, 1959

Debbie Reynolds is trying to line-up the Crosby boys, Der Bingle and his wife Kathryn Grant, for her spring special.

(New York Journal American)

December 9, 1959